

June 15, 2011

Marlene Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

*RE: In the Matter of applications of AT&T Inc. and Deutsche Telekom AG for consent to assign or Transfer Control of licenses and Authorizations; (WT Proceeding - No. 11-65).*

Dear Commissioners:

North Alabama is blessed with abundant natural resources, a trained and capable workforce, and an environment that is friendly to starting or growing a business. We are home to some of the most advanced research institutes that support our nation's aerospace and defense industries. We are also home to more traditional rural areas where agriculture still contributes a significant amount to our local economy.

When recruiting business and industry in rural areas, these enterprises want to see high speed broadband availability as part of the infrastructure that a local community has to offer. Broadband access is becoming just as important as roads, power, sewer and water. As I look around our area, I do see where we have made much progress in broadband deployment, but we still have work to do to extend connectivity out to all the potential commercial and industrial sites in northern Alabama.

I have heard the President talk about getting quality, and inexpensive broadband to all Americans, and I thoroughly support this goal. However, I am not sure government can or should do it by itself. It is going to take private investment – like the kind of investment and expansion of infrastructure promised by the AT&T/T-Mobile merger. They say that upon completing their transaction, 4G LTE service will be built out to more than 97% of all Americans, or in other words, high speed wireless broadband service available to 55 million more Americans.

Marlene Dortch

Page 2

June 15, 2011

I write today to ask you to review and support this merger as rapidly as possible. During these difficult times, it is critical that policymakers take any and all actions necessary to enhance our nation's economic opportunities. We cannot waste time when it comes to making sure our businesses have access to the best technologies—including wireless LTE broadband access—to ensure they have an opportunity to reach the global marketplace, expand their footprint, and create new jobs here at home.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Tate Godfrey". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "J" and a long, horizontal stroke extending to the right.

J. Tate Godfrey, CEcD  
President/CEO

CC:

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Robert McDowell